

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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THURSDAY DECEMBER 18, 2003

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I N S I D E

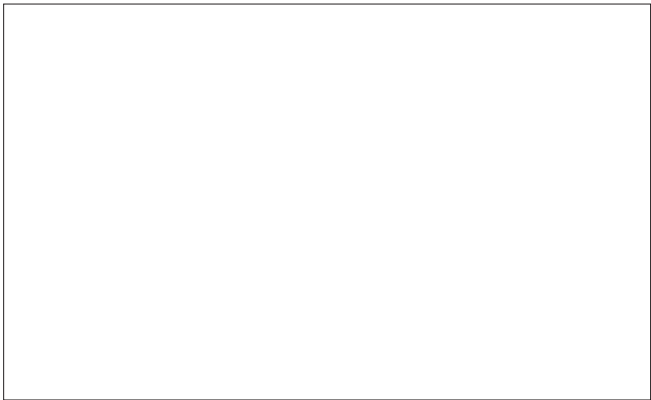
The logo for "Island Snapshot" is written in a stylized, red, cursive font. The word "Island" is larger and more prominent than "Snapshot".

The Saipan Tribune accepts contributed pictures of birthdays, weddings, baptisms, and other community and family events for free publication. Material submitted should be original and not copyrighted, in digital or print format. Must include a caption containing complete details (a description of the event, identities of the persons in the picture, the date, and the place), the name of the contributor, and a contact number. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to edit the caption, the date of publication and the size of the picture. Contributors can e-mail their submissions to editor@saipantribune.com. To check if contributions are received, call 213-6287, 213-3448, or 213-8743.

cars


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WEATHER FORECAST





PICTURE TIME: 2:25 A.M., DECEMBER 17, 2003
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.



A monsoon trough extends from 6N130E through a tropical disturbance near 8N145E and finally to near 5N160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the disturbance are found in the Mariana islands as well as between Yap and Chuuk or between 4N and 16N from 139E to 153E. Just east of the monsoon trough, a surface trough of low pressure continues to near the equator at 168E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are developing north and east of the trough or within 100 miles either side of a line from 9N160E to the equator at 173E, including Kosrae. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across portions of the Marshall islands, between 4N and 16N from 170E to 180.




















 **SAIPAN AND TINIAN**
Cloudy and breezy with scattered showers, some locally heavy, and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: East at 20-25 mph. Gusting in 35 mph in showers.
Temperature: Lows near 78. Highs near 86.

 **GUAM AND ROTA**
Cloudy and breezy with scattered showers, some locally heavy, and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: East at 20-25 mph. Gusting in 35 mph in showers.
Temperature: Lows near 78. Highs near 86.

 PALAU Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Winds: Northeast at 10 kt.	 POHNPEI Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Winds: East at 10 kt.
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 YAP AND ULITHI Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Winds: Northeast at 10 kt.	 KOSRAE Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Winds: Southeast at 10 kt.
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 CHUUK Mostly cloudy with scattered showers with a slight chance of thunderstorms. Winds: Northeast at 10-15 kt.	 MAJURO Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Winds: East at 10-15 kt.
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CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
 Auckland	Cloudy	61F (16C)	49F (9C)
 Beijing	Sunny	44F (7C)	26F (-3C)
 Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	74F (23C)	61F (16C)
 Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86F (30C)	72F (22C)
 London, England	Cloudy	56F (13C)	45F (7C)
 Los Angeles	Cloudy	69F (21C)	51F (11C)
 Manila	Cloudy	88F (31C)	71F (22C)
 Melbourne	Sunny	73F (23C)	54F (12C)
 Miami	Partly Cloudy	84F (29C)	75F (24C)
 New York, NY	Cloudy	52F (11C)	48F (9C)
 Osaka	Rain	54F (12C)	46F (8C)
 Paris	Cloudy	53F (12C)	41F (5C)
 Pusan	Rain	58F (14C)	43F (6C)
 Rome	Partly Cloudy	55F (13C)	39F (4C)
 Salem, Oregon	Rain	54F (12C)	38F (3C)
 San Francisco	Sunny	64F (18C)	47F (5C)
 Seoul	Rain	52F (11C)	45F (7C)
 Tokyo	Rain	55F (13C)	49F (9C)
 Washington, DC	Cloudy	60F (16C)	48F (9C)



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Opinion

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Los Angeles Times

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.



By RUTH L. TIGHE

Left unfinished, in last week's column, comments regarding the United Nations, recently released report, *World Economic and Social Survey 2004*. I had noted that in its chapter on the economic impact of international migration the report says that in the long run such migrations usually benefit both those who migrate, and the host country to which they come. Migrants not only provide a work force, but are themselves consumers, which creates a demand for more supplies and services—and a larger work force. They also fill jobs that host country "natives" are not willing to do.

There is another chapter on temporary migrations (as opposed to migration leading to assimilation). *Temporary Migration and its relation to Trade in Services* is at least as relevant and as important. While citing the advantages of the use of temporary workers to both host and home country—which are similar to the advantages of the use of migrant workers, this chapter notes that host fears remain that the use of temporary migrants is "just the first step toward permanent resettlement in the host country...." This sentiment tends to be correlated with a downturn in business cycles, the report continues, but shutting the door to the use of temporary workers reduces the country's growth potential and is unlikely to succeed in deterring people from migrating. It could even encourage illegal migration, which is much more difficult to control, the report states.

In acknowledging that such fears are legitimate, the report notes that "Temporary work programmes must recognize that some immigrants will move from being temporary to becoming more permanent and thus [they] must provide for such eventuality by channeling otherwise unauthorized migrants into legal status.

The report offers three principles in dealing with the issue: (1) how migrants are treated is a matter of government policy; (2) the overall economic benefits of moving workers over borders are positive since "individual migrants and their employers become better off and world gross domestic product (GDP) rises as more workers obtain higher-wage jobs;" and (3) "legal and orderly labour migration is best for all parties."

The report discusses several strategies for improving management of the situation, ranging from economic incentives for either the employer or the employee and using enforcement effectively, to finding ways to encourage migrant workers to return home.

The report is important to the CNMI for two reasons. In the first place, it makes clear that dealing with foreign workers is an issue shared worldwide—that it is not only the CNMI that struggles for the best way of managing them—the moral being, let's not re-invent the wheel here, let's consult with others with similar issues. In the second place, it offers perspectives and suggestions for re-evaluating present policy and practices in the CNMI towards its foreign

workers—which could bring about a better understanding of just what the role of those workers is—and can be—in the CNMI. The report can be found on the web at www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/wess2004files/part2web/chap5.pdf and <http://www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/wess2004files/part2web/chap5.pdf>.

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The UN report is also relevant to what looks like becoming the "Dekada controversy." The U.S. Department of Interior's Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Office of Insular Affairs, David Cohen, let it be known this week that foreign workers, calling themselves the Dekada, who are petitioning the U.S. Congress for U.S. permanent residence status, don't stand a chance of succeeding.

Cohen referred to the Covenant between the United States and the CNMI in making his point. Though the Covenant gives the CNMI control over immigration into the CNMI, it does not, and cannot, give the CNMI any control over immigration into any of the rest of the United States, he said. Dekada is asking for U.S. permanent residence status for workers who have worked continuously in the CNMI for at least five years.

While it would seem that the CNMI should, perhaps, extend to foreign workers who have worked in the CNMI continuously for at least 10 years—who expect to continue working here—some consideration, some voice, in how they are "governed," it is now clear that U.S. permanent residence is not the answer. (I believe five years is too short a period on which to base any claim.) And the CNMI Constitution prohibits increasing the class of "non-alien."

Whether the U.N. report addresses this specifically—I have not read the whole report—it does, as noted above, discuss management strategies. Perhaps in its pages, interpreted with some creativity on the part of CNMI policy-makers, a more workable solution can be found.

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I also wrote, in last week's column, of the caution by Pacific Asia Travel Association vice-president Peter Simone that the CNMI should take care not to "mix and match" Chinese and Japanese tourists—that they should not be housed in the same hotels, for example—because of their cultural differences. And I expressed the hope that here in the CNMI, such differences would be accommodated "in peace and tranquility."

A young Chinese man of my acquaintance, in talking about Simone's warning, said he thought such an approach might offend the Chinese, that they might not find it acceptable to be housed in separate hotels. The Chinese should not be given different treatment than the Japanese, he said. What he said reminded me of was the "separate but equal" doctrine that was once applied in the mainland in education circles and elsewhere in regard to how blacks were treated. It didn't work because it never was equal. And from the looks of things, it shouldn't be tried here either. Chinese tourists should be offered the same accommodations, the same access to services and facilities as is now offered the Japanese.

They might choose, for example, to stay at Tinian's Dynasty Hotel, which is Chinese-owned—but the choice should be theirs. In actuality, until everyone gets his or her act together—the Federal

Aviation Administration, the Transportation Security Administration, and Chinese airlines—and large commercial jets are finally allowed to land on Tinian, it probably won't be possible to accommodate them on Tinian even if that's what they wanted. They'll have to come to Saipan, and perhaps at least lay over one night, before proceeding there.

It borders on the scandalous that now that—after years of delay—the Tinian runways have finally been extended to accommodate large jets, what appears to be bureaucratic red tape still prevents them from landing there.

Chinese officials have let it be known they expect tremendous opportunities and benefits as a result of China's relationship—presumably including tourist arrivals here—with the CNMI. The CNMI, in turn, should do its share to see that this new group of tourists be given every consideration.

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One last hold-over from last week's column: a reader wrote in to say she was glad not to see lots of congratulatory ads re: Constitution Day from politicians. They pay for those ads out of our money, she said, when they could be making much better use of it, by sponsoring events that allowed public participation, rather than just advertising themselves in the paper. I confess I had not seen it that way. She has a point, but I would argue that those ads constitute a not insignificant portion of the newspapers' income, which allows them to continue serving us, and provides jobs to newspaper staff. And that's not such a bad way to spend our money....

□ □ □

With the New Year—and New Year's resolutions—fast approaching, a resolution I would offer to our lawmakers: Resolved that the battle for jurisdiction and control between island mayors, island municipal councils and legislative delegations be addressed once and for all through the appointment of a commission charged with studying the problem and coming up with a reasonable, affordable and acceptable solution. It was a battle when the Constitution was being drawn up, it was a battle at the 2nd ConCon—which resulted in significant change in the Constitution—and it is still contentious. Witness the two legislative initiatives that have been introduced in this session to again amend the Constitution and change the powers and responsibilities of the mayors and municipal councils. But addressing it piecemeal is not the answer. Rather, the issue of where how much authority should be placed deserves a thorough and comprehensive examination.

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The CNMI has its four "C" holidays. A former U.S. Senator has his own four "C"s. In a radio discussion of how Congress operates, former Senate majority whip Alan Simpson was heard to say recently that U.S. lawmakers work together in a civil manner most of the time. But the media does not report that, instead waiting all day for a quote that will "stir the pot." Said Simpson, "They're interested in conflict, confusion and controversy, not clarity." Which leads right into the bumper-sticker saying: "The opposite of PROgress is CONgress."

Have a happy holiday!

Deception's role in war coverage

Can reporters be trusted with war information? Can the government be trusted? We're still finding out—or maybe we're not finding out.

One of the great successes of World War II was Operation Fortitude, aimed at cloaking the D-Day invasion in a "body-guard of lies." The Allies wished to convince the Germans that the assault across the English Channel would land near the town of Pas de Calais, at the Channel's narrowest point.

So the Allies created a phantom army, with inflatable rubber tanks and papier-mache airplanes. To further the illusion, they created a fake navy, too, and put out faux radio transmissions. Meanwhile, the real assault armies were assembling farther south. And on the morning of June 6, 1944, the Allies landed at Normandy, 200 miles from Calais. Not only was the Normandy coast lightly defended, but the Germans were still convinced that the "real" attack was still coming at Calais. By the time they figured out the deception, it was too late.

Operation Fortitude was, in the words of Air Force historian Ernest Tavares Jr., a "near perfect plan," leaving the Germans "essentially blind." And that's the way to win a war.

So to the obvious question: Could anything so sneaky as Operation Fortitude be pulled off today? Could thousands of people be kept quiet in a world full of cell phones, e-mail and text-messaging, all interfacing with an ever-proliferating number of cable news channels, bloggers and list-servers? Which is to say, in other words, that "the media" today aren't just a few reporters who might be

pep-talked or intimidated into keeping a secret. Instead, the media include millions of people representing different traditions, different countries, different loyalties. Could such a buzzing collectivity even begin to keep a secret?

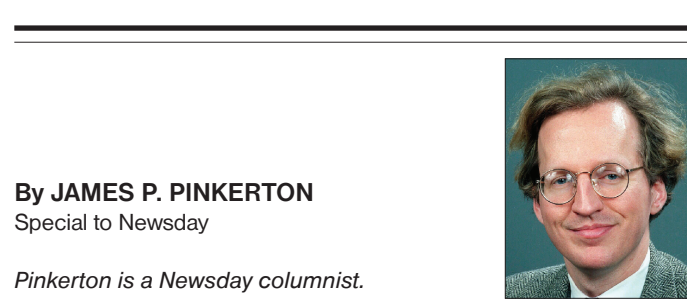
The United States is hardly helpless. American forces deposed Saddam Hussein in just three weeks of fighting last year.

Yet on the other hand, the larger objectives in the "Global War on Terror"—defeating the insurgents, democratizing Iraq, winning hearts and minds across the Middle East—remain to be achieved. And it's apparent that reports and images from Iraq, most notably the Abu Ghraib prison photos and the video of the Marine shooting a wounded man in Fallujah, aren't helping the American cause.

It's not so much that the media are untrustworthy—although many in the military might argue that they are—it's that the "press," from Al-Jazeera reporters to the humblest freelancer, is simply uncontrollable. And absent an enormous paradigm shift, that's not going to change.

But now, the military is preparing just such a paradigm shift. On Dec. 1, the Los Angeles Times revealed that in September the Pentagon had established a "strategic communications office" to wage information—or disinformation—warfare in Iraq. The Times reported that an Oct. 14 announcement by the Marines of a seeming attack on Fallujah, carried on CNN, was, in fact, a fake-out of the enemy.

It's hard to argue against deceiving the enemy in wartime, but it must also be noted that such deceptions are soon covered by the



By JAMES P. PINKERTON

Special to Newsday

Pinkerton is a Newsday columnist.

media, which is to say, uncovered.

Of course, it's possible that the military has launched a hundred other Fortitude-like fakes that have gone unreported. But now we know—or we think we know—that the Pentagon plans to create a "director of central information" to control "strategic information." That new Pentagon post is not to be confused with the "National Intelligence Director," the new slot created to oversee the CIA and other spy outfits—one thinks.

But now that the directorate of information has been revealed, what does that revelation do to the American government's credibility? Is it really a good idea to have, in effect, a Ministry of Deception if its existence is known to the world?

In the future, it might be harder for the enemy to know what's going on, and that's good. But it will surely be harder for Americans to know what's going on, and that's not so good.

Our World At War



2004 W-2CM forms distribution to start Monday

The Division of Revenue and Taxation wishes to inform all CNMI employers that the distribution of the 2004 W-2CM forms and Instructions will begin on Monday, Dec. 13, 2004 from 8am to 4pm at the office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation located at the Dandan Commercial Center.

All businesses and employers are asked, to pick up forms during the regular business hours beginning Dec. 13, 2004. The deadline for filing 2004 W-2CM form is Feb. 28, 2005 at 4:30pm.

Saipan Community Church Christmas Bazaar today

The Saipan Community Church will be having a Christmas Bazaar tomorrow, Dec. 12, 2004, Sunday, from 11am to 3pm, at the Saipan Community School cafeteria, featuring crafts exhibit and food for sale. The public is invited.

Head Start Program enrollment starts

Enroll your child now! Head Start provides children with activities that help them grow mentally, socially, emotionally, and physically. The Head Start staff recognize that, as parents,

you are the first and most important teachers of your children. They will welcome your involvement in Head Start activities, and will work as partners with you to help your child progress. Your child will leave Head Start more prepared for kindergarten, excited about learning, and ready to succeed.

Open slots are at the following centers:
San Antonio-PM session
San Vicente-PM session
Capitol Hill-PM session
Capitol Hill-AM session
Kagman III-PM session
Kagman II-PM & AM session
Chalan Kanoa-AM session

Free cooking, baking workshop

The Northern Marianas College CREES will be conducting Christmas in the Kitchen, a FREE workshop for those interested in giving gifts that are deliciously different!

“Learn to make yummy holiday food gifts everyone will love! Our experts will teach you simple ways to turn boring ingredients into beautiful presents,” NMC CREES said in a statement. “And it doesn’t end there! You will learn healthy holiday eating tips so you can indulge in without the bulge! We will show you samples of healthy food ideas for your next holiday party.”

The free workshop will be held Saturday, Dec. 18, from 9am to 12pm, at the NMC CREES Building G, As Terlaje Campus.

Register by calling 234-5498 Ext. 1711/1432. Ask for Joanne Ogo or Bonnie Royal.

Rota workshop on pesticide safety

Do you need to apply pesticides on farms or in houses? Plan to attend the Pesticide Safety Education Program at the Rota Campus of Northern Marianas College. This workshop covers four days from 8am to 4pm on Dec. 14 to 17.

After successfully completing the exam you will be able to apply for the Private Pesticide Applicator’s License, valid for three years in the CNMI.

For more information, call the Rota Campus of NMC at 532-9511 or 532-9477.

Dandan Elementary School PTA meeting

The Dandan Elementary School will be having its PTA meeting on Thursday, Dec. 16, 2004 at 6:30pm in the school cafeteria.

DES principal Jonas Barcinas said the presence of parents and guardians at the meeting “will very much appreciated.”

APO anniversary and service set

The Alpha Phi Omega International (Philippines) Service Fraternity & Sorority – Saipan Alumni Association will celebrate its 79th founding anniversary on Dec. 16, to be held at Ysabel’s restaurant.

In line with the celebration, members of Alpha Phi Omega will initiate a service project (monetary assistance) to assist the

victims of the recent typhoon in the Philippines.

For more details, contact Vic Brana at 235-1229; Mike Cruz at 483-7171; or Sonny Pablo 888-7302.

Public notice to first time homeowners

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. said that it is extending the deadline for first time homeowners to submit housing loan applications for the Plumeria Estates.

NMHC encourages all interested applicants to pick up an application at its central office in Garapan, Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm, except holidays, and to have the applications submitted as soon as they can. For any inquiries on the matter, call one of NMHC’s loan officers at 234-9447/7689/7670.

Tax amnesty forms now available

The Division of Revenue and Taxation of the Department of

Finance said that the special tax returns for the Tax Amnesty Program under Public Law 14-28 are now available on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

The division encourages all delinquent taxpayers with outstanding tax obligations to visit the division to avail themselves of the tax amnesty program. The deadline for applying for tax amnesty is Jan. 19, 2005.

Oleai Elementary School PTSA meeting set

The PTSA Officers of the Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of it students that the PTSA meeting will be on Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2004, 6pm, in the school cafeteria. Everyone is invited.

Project to upgrade CUC wastewater line begins

The project to upgrade the Beach Road Transmission Line has

already begun, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The utility agency said in a statement that the project took off on Dec. 6, 2004, and the estimated completion date is Jan. 6, 2006.

The project begins from the pump station near Pacific Islands Club northward and ends at the pump station right in front of Mount Carmel Church.

“This project includes the installation of a newer and bigger wastewater forcemain line to accommodate the much increased wastewater flow and to eliminate the problems of overflowing which residents and businesses within these areas are experiencing, particularly during heavy rains,” the CUC statement said. “CUC apologizes to all motorists for any inconvenience that this project may cause during its entire construction period.”

For any inquiry or concern with regards to this project contact the CUC Wastewater Division at 235-7025 Ext. 141, or the Trouble Desk at 235-0282 or 235-2282.

CUC ROTA

CARONEL

Good Housekeeping

*Cooking with
Chef Singh*



The Good Life

Santa's good health is the gift of clean living

By KORKY VANN

SPECIAL TO THE HARTFORD COURANT

He's a senior citizen untouched by the typical effects of aging. His health is stable, his income covers his practice of showering lavish gifts on everyone he knows, his social calendar is packed with holiday merrymaking, and his appearance remains unchanged without the aid of Botox or cosmetic surgery.

Meet jolly "old" St. Nick, a spry gentleman of indeterminate age who's managed to stay lively and quick for hundreds of years in spite of his weakness for too many cookies and sugar plums.

Dr. John Hutchins, director of the University of Mississippi's Santa Institute, says the secret to Santa's longevity can benefit everyone looking to live productive lives well into the golden years.

The Santa Institute, staffed by Hutchins, a professor of anatomy, and other faculty members at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, strives to "study" many of the mysteries that have baffled children and adults for generations.

"Santa could stand to lose a few pounds, or he could be at risk for Type 2 diabetes, and he should immediately stop smoking that pipe," says Hutchins, 46, who created the Institute in 1996. "On the other hand, he's got rewarding work he loves to do; he lives a simple life in the North Pole, which is a very quiet area, so his stress level is low, at least most of the year; and he has a very positive attitude. We could all learn a lot from Santa."

Which is just what Hutchins and his panel of experts try to do. Along with Hutchins, the Santa Institute faculty includes Dr. Rebecca Waterer, an associate professor of medicine, who studies Santa's eating habits; Dr. David Dzielak, associate vice chancellor for research, who studies Santa's brain activities; and Dr. Andrew Grandy, director of laboratory animal facilities, who researches whether reindeer really know how to fly. The group considers questions submitted by the public and presents their findings at an annual Santa Institute news conference.

Although the institute and its research are whimsical, Hutchins says Santa's success is based on good science. Take all those reindeer, for example. Research shows that if you want to stay active and feel better longer, head for the closest pet shop or animal shelter.

Pet ownership has a statistical significant effect on the physical health of older people, according to a team of Canadian researchers. And studies published in the *Journal of the American Geriatric Society* showed that caring for Rover or Fluffy—or Donder or

"Santa is a great example of positive aging," says Hutchins. "We need to do all we can to help him stay healthy, so we can keep him around forever."

Blitzen—cuts down on loneliness and acts as a buffer against isolation.

And don't overlook Santa's marriage of many years to Mrs. Claus, says Hutchins. Studies show that married people have lower incidences of many diseases and ailments than people who have never married or who are widowed or divorced. Those with a supportive partner also, on average, recover more quickly from serious illness, according to a Duke University study.

"Mrs. Claus seems to be very supportive of Santa's activities and puts up with having a busy workshop next door," says Hutchins. "I suspect she's a nurturer and occasional caregiver when Santa overdoes."

Although Santa is showing a few age-related conditions, experts say he's handling them in a responsible way. He's most certainly developed presbyopia, the inability to focus on objects close up. His reading glasses help cut down on eyestrain, headaches, eye fatigue and blurred vision.

But his mind, says Hutchins, seems as sharp as ever.

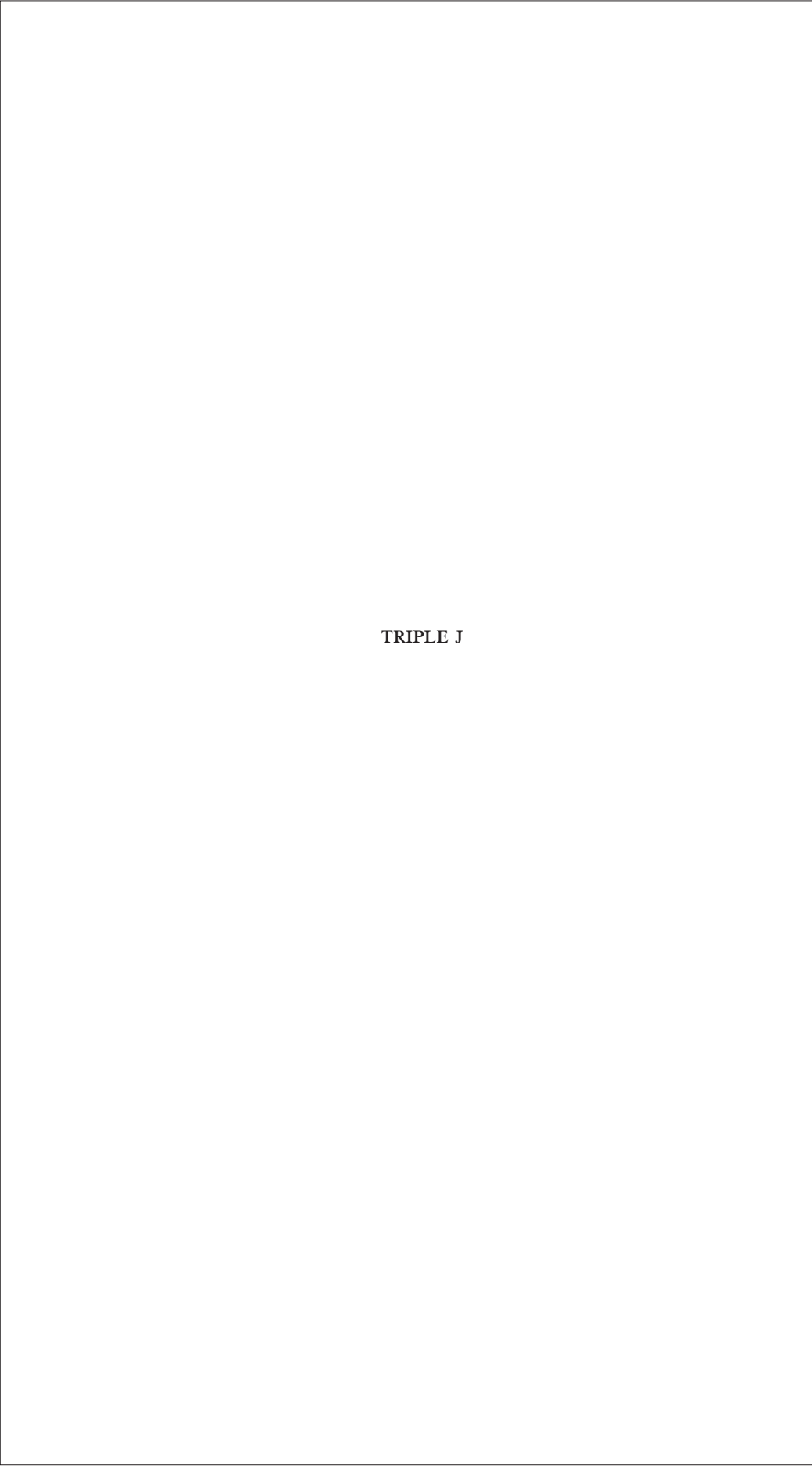
"We haven't seen any real cognitive decline, but by the way we see him making lists and checking them twice, we assume he may be experiencing benign, age-related memory impairment, or forgetfulness," says Hutchins. "In his work, remembering names is important, so the lists are a good tool."

Santa eventually will have to deal with some of the true challenges of aging, such as when to hang up the keys to the sled. Luckily for him, age alone is not the best indicator of driving skill, according to the International Association of Driving Rehabilitation. As long as Santa maintains his visual perception, range of motion, balance and coordination, takes driver refresher courses and adapts other safe driving techniques, he should be able to safely stay behind the reins. Of course, if he experiences vision changes, any conditions that affect or limit his mobility or begins taking medications, he should have a comprehensive assessment of his driving abilities. Until then, he should be able to continue on his appointed rounds each Dec. 24.

To help Santa stay healthy, Hutchins suggests households limit the number of holiday goodies left for Santa and consider healthy alternatives, such as raisins or carrots.

"Santa is a great example of positive aging," says Hutchins. "We need to do all we can to help him stay healthy, so we can keep him around forever."





The Good Life







stevedore

hermans
+RED

United States

Across the Globe

Life & Style

Jackson greets kids at Neverland

LOS OLIVOS, Calif. (AP)—An ebullient Michael Jackson greeted about 200 children who were brought Friday to the fairy-tale theme park at his countryside ranch—and looked at one point like he might even stay to play.

"I hope you have a wonderful day. Merry Christmas. I love you," the pop singer called out from the driveway of his estate.

When one of the youngsters shouted, "We love you!" Jackson replied "I love you more" before putting an umbrella over his head and walking back toward his house.

In his brief appearance, Jackson smiled, waved and at one point looked as if he would come back and play with the children, but instead got into a vehicle that took him off the property.

Spokeswoman Raymone K. Bain said Jackson chose to make the unusual personal appearance as a surprise for the last group of children touring Neverland before the Christmas holiday.

Santa Barbara County authorities have charged Jackson,

46, with molesting a boy, conspiracy and administering an intoxicating agent, alcohol, to his alleged victim. His trial is set for next year.

Investigators have carried out raids at the ranch, and in a recent court filing that seeks to introduce evidence of other purported crimes that went uncharged, prosecutors described the estate as "a veritable paradise" for children.

Bain said charitable and civic groups bring children to Neverland at least three times a month; the estate contains streams, waterfalls and a lake, and the grounds are decorated with bronze statues of children at play.

On Friday, two elephants, a camel, a baby llama and flamingos were on hand. The estate provided lunch, candy canes, popcorn and a Santa Claus. The children could also play in a video arcade with unlimited games.

"Generally Mr. Jackson is not here all the time," Bain said. "There are events here daily. He wanted to surprise the kids. He has given his whole life to children and charities."



AP
Pop star Michael Jackson gestures as he greets several hundred children that were invited guests at his Neverland Ranch home, Friday, Dec. 17, 2004, in Santa Ynez, Calif.

Harrison guitar sells for \$567,500

NEW YORK (AP)—A classic Gibson guitar played by George Harrison on the Beatles' "Revolver" album and by John Lennon during the recording of the "White Album" sold Friday to an anonymous bidder for \$567,500, Christie's auction house announced.

The cherry-red SG Standard guitar belonged to Harrison from 1966 through 1969, and holds a special place in Beatles history. Harrison used the guitar

in recording sessions and in several of the band's increasingly rare public appearances, and loaned the guitar to Lennon during sessions for the "White Album," according to Darren Julien, whose Julien Entertainment co-sponsored the auction.

The 40-year-old guitar comes with a star-crossed history. The Beatles presented the instrument to a friend, guitarist Pete Ham of the band Badfinger, as a gift in 1969. Ham committed suicide

five years later, and the guitar passed on to his brother John.

John Ham stored the guitar beneath a bed in his London home, where it sat until he was contacted in 2002 by Rock and Roll Hall of Fame representatives putting together a Badfinger retrospective. Ham discovered the guitar in the same spot where he had placed it a quarter-century earlier.

Harrison died of cancer in November 2001.



AP
Denise Richards and husband Charlie Sheen are shown at the "Rodeo Drive Walk Of Style" in this Sept. 9, 2003 file photo, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Sheen, Richards expecting second child

NEW YORK (AP)—Christmas has come early for Charlie Sheen and Denise Richards. The couple are expecting their second child, due in June, People magazine reports. Their first, daughter Sam Sheen, was born in March.

"They are incredibly thrilled and I couldn't think of a better Christmas present for the both of them and for little Sam," the magazine quotes Richards' agent, Chuck James.

Richards, 33, and Sheen, 39, married in June 2002. The couple met while shooting the film "Good Advice" in 2000. They began dating after Richards did guest spots on Sheen's former TV series, "Spin City."

Sheen also has a daughter, Cassandra, 20, from his first marriage.

He now stars in the CBS sitcom "Two and a Half Men," for which he received a Golden Globe nomination for best actor in a TV musical or comedy earlier this week.

Pricey Springsteen tickets draw scrutiny

ASBURY PARK, N.J. (AP)—A benefit concert by the Boss is bringing out big bids on eBay. But some people offering tickets at several times their face value for an intimate performance Sunday by Bruce Springsteen may be running afoul of anti-scalping laws. The face value of the tickets is \$100 each.

Three pairs and one single ticket to the sold-out shows were listed recently at prices ranging from \$750 to \$2,000 for the pairs and \$780 for the single seat.

Under state law, a licensed ticket broker cannot resell tickets, even for a charity event, for more than 50 percent of the face value, said Jeff Lamm, a spokesman for the state Division of Consumer Affairs. Individuals reselling a ticket may



AP
Bruce Springsteen performs with members of the E Street band during a performance at Shea Stadium, in this Oct. 1, 2003 file photo, in New York.

not get more than 20 percent above the face value.

However, eBay spokesman

Hani Durzy said different regulations apply if the seller lives outside New Jersey. That contention was disputed by the Consumer Affairs Division.

Lamm wouldn't comment on whether the agency was investigating.

Show organizer Tony Pella-grosi said measures were taken to reduce scalping: A person could buy only two tickets, and the tickets could only be obtained at the venue, Harry's Roadhouse, before showtime, he said. Once the tickets were picked up, holders would be brought inside to prevent sidewalk scalping, he said.

The two concerts Sunday at the restaurant, for just 500 people each, are to benefit charities in Asbury Park, where the Jersey-born rocker rose to fame.

Washington gives soldiers Purple Hearts

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Academy Award-winning actor Denzel Washington on Friday presented Purple Hearts to some soldiers at Brooke Army Medical Center who were

wounded while in Iraq.

Washington was invited by the Army to help recognize the soldiers as they recover from their injuries.

Washington received a best

actor Oscar for his 2001 movie "Training Day."

He portrayed an Army officer and Desert Storm veteran in the 1996 film "Courage Under Fire."

Man is a menace when driving wheelchair while intoxicated

By AVIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: When we married in 1998, my husband "Grant" and I agreed that we would never put our parents into a nursing home as long as we were physically able to care for them. After our home was built, my father-in-law, "Papa Jake," moved in with us. Papa Jake is now 73, wheelchair-bound from a stroke, and an alcoholic.



He gets into his motorized wheelchair every day and heads out to the local bar, which is a mile away. When he returns, he's completely intoxicated, and sometimes falls. Papa Jake is also belligerent toward me, and I don't want our 2-year-old son living in this environment. I didn't bargain on this when I married Grant.

Grant refuses to tell Papa Jake that if he can't live by the rules he needs to leave. I have reached my limit. I love Grant, but I can't live like this anymore. When is enough enough?

FED UP IN NEW YORK

DEAR FED UP: Papa Jake appears to be a danger to himself. If you haven't already done so, inform his doctor about what's going on. It's extremely unfair of your husband to wimp out and allow his father to treat you so disrespectfully—let alone drive his wheelchair drunk on the public roads.

The bargain you made with your spouse was that you would care for his father as long as you were physically able. Well, since you are not physically able to prevent Papa Jake's forays to the bar (which put his safety at risk), insist that the time has come for Jake to go, and do not back down.

DEAR ABBY: Before a game, my friend asked if I ever had a flame-shooter. Then he went into the bathroom and got a can of hair spray and some matches. He told me to light the match and hold it. While I was holding the match, he sprayed the hair spray on it, and then my hand caught fire. I wasn't burned, but it scared me.

I'm not sure what to do. I want him to still be my friend, but I don't want him to get hurt. Should I let him keep doing it, or should I tell someone and have them tell him to stop?

WORRIED IN KANSAS

DEAR WORRIED: Have you ever heard the saying that people who play with fire usually wind up getting burned? This applies to you and your friend. All you would need is for one of those "flame-shooters" to explode in your faces, and there would be lifelong consequences. The next time your "friend" suggests playing that game, tell him you'd prefer to do something else. Your mother or your teacher should inform his mother about what her son is up to. The boy is a tragedy waiting to happen.

DEAR ABBY: Early this year, I lost my precious father to cancer. Mom and Dad's 50th wedding anniversary would have been in a few weeks, and we had started planning a big celebration. Now that Dad is gone, how can we acknowledge this day? It seems a shame to do nothing, since in her heart, Mom will always be "with" my father.

Is there a way to have a special acknowledgement of any kind? Any suggestions would be welcome.

GRIEVING BUT GRATEFUL IN ATLANTA

DEAR GRATEFUL: While a large celebration of your parents' marriage would not be appropriate, I see no reason why family members and close friends shouldn't take your mother out on this emotionally loaded occasion. Certainly, she should not be alone—and I am sure she would welcome the emotional support.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)







TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	9	10	.474	—
Boston	7	11	.389	1 1/2
Philadelphia	7	12	.368	2
Toronto	7	15	.318	3 1/2
New Jersey	6	13	.316	3

Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	13	6	.684	—
Miami	14	7	.667	—
Washington	11	6	.647	1
Charlotte	4	13	.235	8
Atlanta	4	15	.211	9

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	12	7	.632	—
Detroit	10	9	.526	2
Indiana	10	9	.526	2
Milwaukee	6	11	.353	5
Chicago	3	14	.176	8

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	16	5	.762	—
Dallas	13	8	.619	3
Houston	9	11	.450	6 1/2
Memphis	8	13	.381	8
New Orleans	1	17	.056	13 1/2

Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	17	3	.850	—
Minnesota	13	6	.684	3 1/2
Denver	12	7	.632	4 1/2
Portland	9	9	.500	7
Utah	9	11	.450	8

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	17	3	.850	—
Sacramento	13	6	.684	3 1/2
L.A. Clippers	11	7	.611	5
L.A. Lakers	10	8	.556	6
Golden State	5	14	.263	11 1/2

Yesterday's Games
Denver 101, Toronto 87
Washington 106, New York 104
Miami 92, Memphis 84
New Jersey 94, New Orleans 91, OT
Philadelphia 93, Chicago 88
Atlanta 88, Detroit 72
Minnesota 113, Sacramento 105
Milwaukee 95, Indiana 86
Phoenix 115, Charlotte 106
Utah 92, Portland 87, OT
Orlando 113, Golden State 109

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

EAST
Buffalo St. 85, D'Youville 75
East Stroudsburg 100, Briar Cliff 49
Gwynedd-Mercy 64, Valley Forge Christian 50
Harvard 85, Colgate 82, OT
Hilbert 63, Medaille 59
Ithaca 66, St. Lawrence 58
Marist 83, Lafayette 79
Oneonta 76, Hartwick 60

Oswego St. 84, Nazareth, N.Y. 71
Point Park 70, Roberts Wesleyan 64
Potsdam 95, Alfred 79
St. John Fisher 74, Geneseo St. 56

SOUTH
Arkansas Baptist 71, Freed-Hardeman 70
ETSU 65, Tennessee Tech 54
Missouri Baptist 72, Campbellsville 62
Oklahoma Christian 75, Union, Tenn. 65
Palm Beach Atlantic 77, Florida Memorial 59
Radford 97, Lees-McRae 77

MIDWEST
Dakota St. 99, Valley City St. 78
Iowa 70, Iowa St. 63
Jamestown 82, Dickinson St. 68
Marian, Ind. 70, Wheaton, Ill. 67
Mary 79, Minot St. 69
Mayville St. 88, Si Tanka-Huron 62
Minn.-Mankato 73, N. Dakota St. 70
North Dakota 77, Bemidji St. 69
Piedmont 102, Greenville 87
South Dakota 92, Wayne, Neb. 75
St. John's, Minn. 81, Presentation 70
Wis.-Platteville 58, Wabash 35

SOUTHWEST
Oklahoma St. 86, UAB 73
Ouachita 96, North Alabama 86

FAR WEST
Cal St.-Fullerton 70, E. Washington 68, OT
Colorado Mines 73, Western St., Colo. 50
Mesa, Colo. 82, Colorado Christian 70
Metro St. 82, Fort Lewis 73
Regis 74, Adams St. 49

TOURNAMENT

Goaltenders Classic
First Round
Alma 85, Aurora 83
Franklin 121, Indiana-Northwest 84

Northwestern Mutual Shootout
First Round
Saint Joseph's 84, UC Davis 56
San Francisco 82, Longwood 49

Oneonta Holiday Inn Classic
Semifinals
Wesleyan, Conn. 71, RPI 66, OT

TARGET WORLD CHALLENGE SCORES

SECOND ROUND		
Colin Montgomerie	67-66	133
Tiger Woods	67-66	133
Jay Haas	69-66	135
Jim Furyk	67-68	135
Davis Love III	70-66	136
Chris DiMarco	69-67	136
Miguel Angel Jimenez	68-69	137
Padraig Harrington	68-69	137
Chad Campbell	70-68	138
Fred Couples	68-70	138
Stewart Cink	70-69	139
John Daly	73-69	142
Todd Hamilton	73-69	142
Vijay Singh	74-69	143

Stephen Ames	74-69	143
Kenny Perry	73-73	146

SPORTS TRANSACTIONS

MLB
ANAHEIM ANGELS-Agreed to terms with OF Steve Finley on a two-year contract.
TEXAS RANGERS-Agreed to terms with RF Richard Hidalgo on a one-year contract.
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS-Agreed to terms with RHP Russ Ortiz on a four-year contract.

NBA
PHOENIX SUNS-Placed C Jake Voskuhl on the injured list. Activated G Yuta Tabuse from the injured list.
TORONTO RAPTORS-Placed G Vince Carter on the injured list.

NFL
NFL-Fined Washington Redskins RB Clinton Portis and S Sean Taylor \$5,000 each for violating the league's uniform code on Dec. 5. Fined Taylor an additional \$7,500 for unnecessary roughness in the same game.

College
AIR FORCE-Reinstated G Dan Nwaelel to the basketball team after being cleared of allegations that he cheated academically.
CANISIUS-Fired Brian Cavanaugh, hockey coach.
CARROLL, MONT.-Announced the resignation of Amy Heuiser, volleyball coach.
DELAWARE-Named Jim Fallers assistant baseball coach.
GARDNER-WEBB-Named Will Holthouser football defensive coordinator.
MISSISSIPPI-Named Kelly Anders women's assistant golf coach.
ST. JOSEPH'S, IND.-Announced the resignations of Tim Lester, football coach, and Jake Moreland, offensive line coach, to become assistant football coaches at Western Michigan. Named Lou Esposito football coach.
UTAH STATE-Named Brent Guy football coach.

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

GOVT. LEAGUE STANDINGS		
PSS	5	0
DOL	4	1
DCCA	4	2
DPS I	4	2
CHC	4	2
Tinian	1	1
NMC	3	4
CPA	2	3
P&S	2	4
OPA	1	3
DPS II	1	4
Mayor's Office	0	5

The Week in Sports

Wizards edge Knicks, 106-104



Brendan Haywood atoned for two missed free throws by converting a three-point play off the Wizards' 27th offensive rebound with 7.1 seconds remaining Friday, giving Washington a 106-104 victory over the New York Knicks.

25

Saipan Tribune

Sports

Wrestling world

The week in sports began with professional wrestling in Marpi and ended with good old basketball at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



27

